

Calais Trails Committee  
Annual Meeting  
June 9, 2020  
7:00 pm  
By Zoom

Members present: Tom Blachly, chair; Michael Harrington; Denise Wilder; Reed Cherington; Toni Kaeding; Charlotte Hanna Bassage, recorder

Also present: Walter Opuszynski and Steve Killoran

1. Chairman Tom called the meeting to order at 7:05

2. Minutes

Revisions to the meeting of May 18, 2019 were noted and Toni will make changes. The minutes as amended were moved by Reed and unanimously approved.

3. Membership renewals

The committee recommends to the Select Board the reappointment of members Michael Fullerton, Denise Wilder and Toni Kaeding. Reed moved, Charlotte seconded; unanimously approved.

4. Membership resignations and new appointments

The committee accepted the resignations of Bill Russell and Reed Cherington, and recommended that the Select Board appoint new members Walter Opuszynski and Steve Killoran. Toni moved, Tom seconded; unanimously approved.

Reed will ask Gail Graham whether her interest in the committee continues.

Thanks, Bill. And thanks to Reed, who will continue to be part of the group nonetheless.

5. Officers

The officers for the year (until next Town Meeting) are Tom Blachly as Chair (moved by Reed, seconded by Michael) and Toni Kaeding as Secretary (moved by Denise, seconded by Reed). Both votes unanimous.

6. Trails

Everyone agreed that the trails are getting more use than ever before during this pandemic. (Walt noted a 25% increase in State trail use as well.)

Maintenance:

- Some markers need replacing on older trails, as trees grow and pop them off. Toni will replace needed ones on Ellis Bruce, and some time we'll get around to adjusting existing markers to provide room for growth. Meanwhile, new markers should leave room (hard to remember).

- Kari Bradley is out on and maintaining the Bradley Loop, though the Committee (Tom?) should talk about this with him to clarify who does what.
- Reed will mow Robinson Cemetery trail, but will look for someone else to do it one of these days.
- Steve will mow the Wheeler Monument Trail.
- Michael and Walt volunteer as asked, so please ask.
- The Conservation Commission continues to maintain the Town Forest/Bliss Pond trails.

#### 7. Trails on East Hill, north east corner of town, with spectacular views.

Bill Blachly would like to see trails on his land, the most likely of which to come first runs from his farm down to Bliss Road.

There is easy parking, much woods; a stock gate needs to have a sign reminding trail users to keep the gate closed or, alternately, a stile.

Tom will continue to work on the trail with a goal of opening it next summer.

The committee will walk the potential trail when Tom schedules it.

Tom will also provide the committee with maps.

#### 8. Potential trails in East Calais village.

Charlotte will take the lead in identifying locations, asking Fletcher Dean for advice.

A potential trail along the Kingsbury Branch needs to wait until the State has mitigated the severe erosion there. But a loop has been identified that starts and ends at the dump.

Another loop may start at the dump and go up the road along the field edge, then over to Batten Road and return to the dump.

##### 8.A. Other East Calais trails

Denise mentioned a possibility in the concept stage only located toward the North Montpelier line. She will pursue.

#### 9. Other Business.

Reed believes we need easier to read maps in larger scale. This would mean the trail system would probably not fit on a single sheet. A subcommittee of Tom, Walt and Ram Verma emerged: Tom will organize it.

#### 10. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. No next meeting scheduled.